HERALD WEATHER SERVICE

A Review of the Storm Warnings for Europe by Mr. Scott, F. R. S.

CRITICISM AND CONTRADICTION.

Only Forty-five Per Cent of the Predictions Admitted as Fulfilled.

CURIOUS COMPARISON.

While the merchants, farmers and seamen of Eu rope were reaping the advantages of the reliable and timely storm predictions capled by the Herald Weather Bureau for their beneut, and the press was scording the successes of the HERALD ID He new and portant journalistic enterprise, a criticism ha been prepared by the Secretary of the Meteorological incit, London, on the HERALD predictions to prove that the percentage of fulfilments of "the American storm warnings" is comparatively small and that the public estimate of the value of the system is not justified by its operation. The bases of this official opinion

storm's path westward from the coasts of the British Islands, from the information in possession of the Meteorological Office, London, until many months after the occurrence.

Second-That a forthcoming paper on the weather for August, 1873, will show how difficult it is to predict the courses of storms leaving the American Con-

Third-That Professor Dove, in his "Geseiz Stürme," published in 1857, says:-"It is evident that the connection between a storm in the temper ate zone and the original cyclone in the torrid zone to which it owes its origin need not necessarily be trace able as a continuously advancing minimum in the

Fourth-That although the investigations of Cap tain Toynbee and others prove that depressions ar met crossing the Atlantic by vessels bound westward, this fact does "not prove anything as to the poss able to say which out of several gales passing out to sea from the American coast will be likely to travel scross the Atlantic with unimpaired energy."

Fifth-That Professor Louis does not believe the

Mr. Robert H. Scott, F. R. S., Secretary to the Mereorological Council, has undertaken a "private inthe results of the HERALD predictions abled during the eleven months ending December,

After recounting the failure of all the attempts t derive useful information from cable messages based on observations taken at Heart's Content, Newloundland, between January, 1868, and November, 1871 and menting untavorably on Protessor Draper's theory that storms cross the ocean and on the unsuccessfu attempt of the United States Signal service to warm the British coasts in 1874, he goes on to say, with reference to the HERALO predictions;-

reference to the Herako predictions:—
Such was the state of the question when, in February, 1877, Mr. J. 6. Bennett, the proprietor of the New York Herako, Commenced sending occasional warnings to Kurope, which have been puolished in the newspapers. The meteorological office, on the Birst appearance of these warnings, opened communications with the London office of the New York Herako and received a most ready response. Since this date we have received almost without intermission a copy of each storm warning telegram which has been transmitted to this country from New York.

I have instituted a careful comparison between these warnings and the weather stosequently experience in these islands, and the main lacts of this comparison are enumerated in the following faciles, the he dings of which explain themselves. The general result of the comparison is that, during the entire period of her riy eleven months, thirty-six telegrams were received conveying warnings of city different disturbances. Classifying these warnings under lour categories viz. A according these warnings under lour categories viz. A according these warnings under lour categories viz. A according these warnings under lour categories viz. A absolute success; B, partial success; C, very slight success; D, absolute failure—we Bnd!—

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porta.

The intimation to outbound ships that bad weather is prevailing at the other side of the Atlantic at the time they are leaving port over here. may of course be useful, because our own experience tells us that storms in winter, like misfortunes, never come angle, and so the disturbed state of the weather may perhaps prevail up to the time that they reach the American coast, or at least the longiat they reach the American country is to Nowloan dead.

If the actual wording of the warning be examined shall see that they are framed with more reforance to conditions of a continental climate, with its abchanges, such as prevail in the United States, than more schial circumstances in which we live, it an occilimate, in these islands. Thus is sufficiently evident the frequent forcease of glatining and its sufficient with the frequent forcease of glatining of which have fulfilled. The pre-neutralistic of which have furfilled. The pre-neutralistic of heavy rains met more luck, but meany rain is a safe proposecy for our most suck, but meany rain is a safe proposecy for our

more luck, but neavy fain is a sale proposely for our westcoasts at an seasons.

It must not be longotten that the fact of a gale being reported on the day for shich one has been foretoid does no
ported on the day for shich one has been foretoid does no
ported on the day for shich one has been foretoid does no
ported on the day for shich one has been foretoid does
present the sale of the post of the disturbance was
been a direction as, to say the least, would ender it extensely improposite that the area of depression in quespositive for the day for the day for the disturbance was
positived in the tightatio of Pebruary 15, 1877, the area of
depression No. 1) was in front of an advancing area of
high pressure, the area of depression, when it reached
this side of the Atlantic, distinctly moved from north
to south over several degrees of latitude, and we are
almounted by without any evidence as to its apposed track
from the States to our neighborhood. The presumption is

In addition to the foregoing Mr. Scott takes ea prediction separately and compares it with the record of the dates to which it refers, and gives his opinion of the fulfilment or otherwise.

THE HERALD COMPARES MR. SCOTT'S COMPARISON. The exact language of Mr. Scott in regard to the HERALD predictions being before the reader, it is first necessary to show how and where he inimspylies pr what must be presumed to be such, as they are officially recorded in the daily weather builetins issued to the London press by the British Meteorological Uffice. A gentleman of eminent position in the world of science has ventured to criticise what he confess. edly does not comprehend, and must, therefore, undergo criticism bimself.

As Mr. Scott's remarks apply particularly to the HERALD predictions be is not justified by the terms of any one of these or of any other statement in this simility "of a meteorologist in the United States being able to say which out of several gales passing out to sea from the American coast will be likely to travel across the Atlantic with unimpaired energy."

A gale is the local effect of a passing disturbance, due to a considerable difference between the cond tions of temperature and pressure over the area of the high pressure. The gale does not pass "out to sea, but the contrasting conditions that produce it may do so. The gaie will not travel across the At lantic, but the atmospheric disturbance of which of the conditions being impaired. Hence, it a gal prevails over Ohio a gate will be subsequently experienced in New York State, provided the prevailing condivious favor its development; but it is by no means pertain that it will be felt, although the disturbance that produced it in Ohio may move into New York It is not possible that any meteorologist in the United States could assert that a gale, as a distinct effect of to almospheric disturbance, travels across the ocean .herefore Mr. Scott's reference to such a possibility is

s very unaccountable one.
So far as his paragraph refers to "the statements of Mr. Buchan and others, to the effect that certain storms have been traced by them right across the Atlautic," and to Captain Toysbee's report, the diagrams accompanying which "show that steamers, when outward bound to America, often meet succession of areas of low pressure on castward, and when homeward bound often run with such a system for a considprable time," it would be interesting to know what other means he would suggest besides actual observation for determining transationatic storm movements.

successive ships in regularly decreasing longitudes

identity of the storm, and that this disturbance reaches the European coasts, is it possible that Mr. Scott denies that such a series of observations would prove anything? While an isolated case of tracing such a storm over the Atlantic would not prove the possibility of a meteorologist in the United States predicting the arrival of atorms in Europe, it would undoubtedly form the basis of an investigation. If that storm movements over the ocean are governed by incomprehensible laws whose exceptional opera-tion is comparatively rare, it clearly follows that a cioce and constant study of such laws would permit of a system of reliable predictions being based thereon. Such a study has been made by the HERALD Weather Bureau, and the results are that even Mr. Scott in compelled to admit a faiture of only forty-two per cent after straining every possible point and word

to support his views.

Referring to Professor Draper's theory of storm movements Mr. Scott remarks:—"Information is de strable as to the precess test applied to the disturbance at this side of the Atlantic. Mr. Draper speaks of storms. This word, in our phraseology, would im-ply Force 9 of Beautort's scale, a strong gale with a venturing to enter into any discussion that may be raised between Mr. Scott and Mr. Draper as to the correctness of their respective opinons it is proper to state that Mr. Scott's rather robi deas of what a storm is or ought to be is somewhat beyoud those that prevail in America. People in the United States are quite prepared to accept a forty-mile wind, or one of even less velocity, when accompanied by rain or snow, as a storm. It is also worthy of noice that the British press report "storms" in England with thirty-five mile winds and deciare them to be very severe, and even the regular weekly weather bulletin of the Kew Observatory, published in the London Times of February 22, 1877, states:- 'The weather was very stormy, the velocity of the wind attaining a rate of thirty-seven miles an hour," &c.

Any atmospheric disturbance that threatens or causes serious damage to property or endangers the lives of scamen or other persons may be called a storm. Those signalled by the Heralle Westber Buread are in many instances below the standard forms when leaving the coasts of this continent, but increase in energy as they advance eastward. They proaching the Azores or passing over the mid Atlan-tic, but recover their energy again over the British Islands. Norway or in the Baltic. All these changes are due to variations in the relations of conditions, and but rarely of the conditions themselves.

In enumerating the different attempts made to util-

ize the cables for weather warnings Mr. Scott ignores the work of the Inte M. Le Verrier, co-operating with British officials in messages from Newfoundland. For the same reason as Mr. Scott's arrangement during 1868-71 failed that of M. Le Verrier proved unsuccessial; but the late distinguished Director of the Observatory of Paris did not venture to assign failure to the same cause. He plainly told the HERALD representative in Paris that ill success was due to the want of a competent observer in Newloundland who would watch and signal storms advancing toward the coast from the interior des Movements Generaux de l'Atmosphere," pubtished under M. Le Verrier's direction, are based on ransatiantic passage of American storms. Mr. Scott appears not to be aware of this undertaking when he says:--"The first practical proposal for such a service, as far as I am aware, was made to me in August, 1867," and adds:-

We received the telegrams gratis for the space of nearly four years, through the great liberality of the angle-American Relegraph Company, out we could not turn them to practical use, partly owing to the circumstance that the site of the station was chosen as a site benefit as the site of the station was chosen as a site benefit as the wind left it lie head of the bay and reported to us bore little relation to that blowing outside.

Partly because the weather observer at "seart's Content Bay was sheltered out of the wind, partly because Mr. Scott believes "that it is all but impossible to pre-dict which storm out of several starting from the States will reach us," the cable system was droppe when the Anglo-American Telegraph Company pro posed to charge for the messages. In support of his f that storms cannot be traced over the ocean Mr. Scott quotes Professor Loomis' opinion, which is

When storms from the American continent enter upon the Atlantic Ocean they cenerally undergo important changes in a few days and are frequently merged in once storms which appear no originate over the ocean, so that we seldom identify a storm in its course entirely across the

1865-6 by the captains of a large number of vessels scattered over the ocean, as well as those of the Atlantic coast of America and of the entire of Europe have be charted and the isobars traced as carefully as possi ble by the meteorologists of the Paris Observatory. In the large majority of these charts it is clearly dentification. Neitner can there be found more than a few instances in which storms develop over the great meteorological field of the North Atlantic, except in or quite near the tropical zone of that ocean. and these cyclopic disturbances are remarkably intre quent. The storms leaving the continent off the New England and New Brunswick coasts do so in the great majority of cases with considerable intervals between their centres-intervals that are marked by conditions which generally prevent the union of the storm areas. Cares are known where two and even three storm centres enter what might be termed the same general ares of low pressure, but these instances are rare, and the storm centres never lose their hioptity. Even when passing over this continent the centres. or, properly, the vortices of storms, travel side by side without losing their individual organization. Subsidiery centres developed by the movement of original storms—that is to say, storms whose courses have been traced across the continent farely merge over the coast line into the unobstructed plane of the ocean, and then only under pecuthat any careful observer who has a proper concep-tion of the movement of atorms will fail in recognizing the identity of each disturbance that leaves the American coast. The steamship reports, furnished ienced commanders, show the regular procession eastward of all depressions, and an instance has not yet occurred of a milure on the part of the Bureau to recognize them. Another important fact worth noting in connection with this question is that a diagram of the barometric oscillations, kept for the HERALD Weather Bureau at Queenstown, Ireland, during 1877, shows depression for depression with the Henald's predictions for that region. Mr. Scott may regard such corpordences as the result of mere chance, but

enind them come the records of steamship observa tions that complete the evidence. Still another fact is that the BERALD Weather Bureau predicted the arrival of storms on certain parts of the European coasts-such as, for the "British, French and Spanish coasts;" the "British and French coasts;" the "British coast" only, and the "North British and Norwegian coasts." On consulting the records it is found that the storms struck where predicted in the large majority of instances. Now if there were no reliable means of determining where these storms would go after leaving the American coasts, could it be possible to predict their arrival on particular sections of the European coast with any degree of success? If the storms merged with others developed on the Atlantic how could mere chapter govern the precise arrival of storms in Europe in ac-"dance with the HERALD's predictions made from three to six days abead? The HERALD Weather Bureau has discovered what it regards as being the general law governing the movement of storms over the Atentic and all the abnormal operations of this law are known and considered when a prediction is made. warning is sent by cable, but a positive prediction giving the date of the storm's arrival in Europe and the character it will, in all probability, have assumed an route. Mr. Scott, who has undertaken to criticise this work and to create the impression among his English readers that "the American storm warnings" are of comparatively little value, did not know the HERALD System of observation and prediction when he wrote his criticism. He stated to a repri sentative of the HERALD to London that "the warn ings can be of no scientific value unless the modus operandi is disclosed." He even suggests in his artic

for the Nautical Magazine of Marcu:-

atinfactory testing of the warnings until we have before is a long series of symptic charts of the winds and weather zisting between America and Europe.

hatneding the facts that Mr. Scott did not know how the predictions are made; that he expressed a desire to know, and that he deems it impossible to institute a satisfactory test until he possesses the necessary information to lead to a correct result, he does not hesitate to pronounce uniavorably on the HERALD system of predictions after making his "pri-

actual storm warning received by the Meteorological Office from the United States was on Thursday, De-Central Signal Office and was worded as follows:--'A low barometer, with wind fifty miles per boar, left our the character of the storm, was forwarded on the that day and the Sist, or eleven full days, the woather was fine in the British Islands. Mr. Scott Nothing was essayed by the sender that could fail He informed Mr. Scott that a storm centre had left the American coast and invited the Meterological Office in London to "look out for it." The storm, however, did not reach the British coasts in any char acter or within any time that was officially recognized by the office in relation to the message. How the cir cumstances in this case support Mr. Scott's deductions is not apparent. The general result of the inforty-five per cent of the warnings can be considered to be really successini;" that is to say, "the information conveyed by them was of real value to seamen in

Assuming, for the present, that the estimate of forty-five per cent is correct, does not even that per-centage prove semething? Forty-five per cent of success is in airong contrast with Mr. Scott's belief in the impossibility of correct prediction from the United States. What is represented by the forty-five per cent of success-mere chance or correct predic-

Mr. Scott says:-"The intimation to outward bound ships that bid weather is prevailing at the other side of the Atlantic at the time they are leaving port over here may, of course, be useful." Considering that the bound ships the information must be highly important, but the HERALD Weather Bureau has never limited the locality affected by bad weather to this western side of the Atlantia It has never conveyed the impres you, directly or indirectly, that the "bad weather" did not advance eastward in conformity with the gen eral law of storm movements. The ocean progress o the HERALD Weather Bureau give the progress of the "bad weather" and the manner in which it is ex-

Turning to "the actual wording of the warnings, Mr. Scott remarks that the predictions "are frame with more reference to the conditions of a continen in the United States, than to the more genial circum stances in which we live, in an oceanic crimate i islanda." Tue HERALD Weather Bureau must therefore be, in Mr. Scott's opinion, wholly unaware of the conditions that prevail in Europe, and particularly in the British Islands. The "genial circumstances" of Sunday, March 24, in England were very seriously disturbed by "abrupt changes." In truth, the storm that swept England and caused the sudden and deplorable loss of the Eurydice and her crew was one of those disturbances which the British Meteorological Office is not in the habit of anticipating. The fact that the HERALD Weather Bureau warned England six days before the storm arrived affords strong proof that something is known in America about Erglish weather. As to the heavy rains Mr. Scott says it is always sale to predict occasion to show in his tabular analysis of the HERALD predictions that long periods of dry weather occur in England. Would it have been sale to pre dict rains under such circumstances?

But Mr. Scott qualifies what he has already admitted in favor of the HERALD predictions and sug gests :- "It must not be forgotten that the fact of being reported on the day for which one has foresold does not necessarily prove that the merican coast." This is only putting the "impossi is impossible that the storms can cross the ocean and preserve their identity they cannot reach England as they left America. But from the fact that they do ance that caused similar gules to America. Mr. Scott again confounds the gale with the storm, the effect with the cause, but probably means the latter when he refers to the disturbance crossing the ocean.

ruary 19, 1077, coming from the northward over England can be the same as that announced as leaving the amercan coast. He says, "The presumption is that it came to us from the neighborhood or Iceland." But as he namits the impossibility of tracing storms westward or in any direction from the British coasts, as a scientitic investigator be is not justified in any "presumption" about their courses. It happens, however, that the very movement he professes not to underrecords of the HERALD Weather Bureau, and was explained to M. Le Verrier in a communication with charts, dated July 10, 1877. The storm did not come "from the neighborhood of Iceland" as the region of its origin, but in a general northeasterly course from Newfoundland, and was preceded and follower by areas of high barometer, between which a great undulation of their zone line occurred which the storm centre moved. Ween it reached a latifude a little corthwestward of Scotland and between that country and Iceland the high pressure in advance of it extended rapidly over Norway and Sweden and the Baltic, while the area behind it reled southward slowly, so as to direct the movemen of the storm centre toward the east and southeast and over the British Islands. The changes that affected the movement of this storm were due to the influences of storm centres that preceded and followed that of February 19, 1877. Mr. Scott claims "that the cyclone" of July 15, "which occurred on the very day for which one was predicted, did not come from the Atlantic at ail, but was formed over these islands." Referring to the eight A. M. official bulletin of the British Meteorological Office published in the London Tener' "Register of Events" for July 13, the following statement is found:-- "Pressure is highest the Peninsula, lowest off our northwest Coast, and there seems to be a new de pression approaching our western stations from the On the 14th the official bulletin says:-The barometer continues to fall steadily over the United Kingdom and France, but is rising a little in the Guil of Bothnia and sweden. It remains lowest to the westward of our island." On the 15th "a large and well defined parometrical depression by over the north of Engiand this morning and pressure was decreasing in all parts of Western Europe," On the 16th, 17th and 18th this centre moved from England to southern Nerway. The diagrams accompanying each bulletin from the Meteorological Office, of which We Scatt himself is the executive chief, indicate plainly the movement of the cyclone centre and that the storm was not "formed," as he alleges, over the British Islands, although its energy decidedly increased opinion "that as yet the attempts to foretell weather by means of the Attentic cables have not met with a establish beyond a doubt that storms do not cross the ocean. It is a simple matter of investigation, not of speculation, to determine the movement of storms from the American continent to Europe. So jar all the valuable and direct evidence supports the belief that the storms do cross. It is on this evidence formulated Into a law, that the HERALD Weather Bu reau bases its predictions, and sithough Mr. Scott's comparisons would lead to the opinion that the success of these predictions has been limited to forty-five per cent, they conflict strangely with the official daily bulletins issued to the British press, prosumably under his immediate direction.

THE PREDICTIONS AND ENGLISH WEATHER. A comparison between the conditions predicted by the HERALD Weather Bureau and those that prevailed in the British Islands on the corresponding days ought to be one in which no serious error could pos arbly arms. The predictions were definite enough, They gave the dates of the probable arrival of storms; the character of the storms and of attendant phenom

eas, such as rain, snow, gates, lightning and changes of temperature. A reference to the bulletins of the British Meteorological Office would apparently estabhish beyond a doubt whether or not the predicted conditions were experienced. Yet when the Scott deductions drawn from these conditions, as relating to the predictions, are compared with the official bulletins, grave discrepancies are discovered that reduce very materially the value of the deductions or of the bulletins. decided between the daily bulleties as published in the London press, which are synopses of the records of daily observations made under the direction of the British Meteorological Office, and the statements of valled on corresponding days, before any comparison can be satisfactorily made between the weather prenoted by the HERALD and that experienced. The general data on which such a comparison can be made are contained in the published bulleties in the London Times for every evening except Saturday at six o'clock and in the Times' "Register of Events for 1877," which gives the morning bulletin (eight A. M.) for every day except Sunday throughout the year; the weather correspondence and shipping reports published in the Times: the Bulletin Internationale of the HERALD Weather Bureau and other records connected therewith on the one hand, and the remarks of dr. Scott, in his tabulation of the predictions and the results as determined by him, on the other.

of American Warnings with British Weather in 1877," reterring to different disturbances sent by the HERALD between February 15 and December 14, 1877. In that period there were forty-one telegrams sent to London, five of which Mr. Scott has not noticed in his com-22 and August 18. Of these the Best two and the last were completely talfilled according to the comparison the official bulletins published in the London Times. The other two were partly fulfilled, according to the same authority. Of the warnings noticed by M Scott those of the 17th and 23a of April referred to only one disturbance, as explained in the HERALD of February 22, 1878. The message dated September 20, warns as tollows :- "A dangerous cyclone is about will probably reach the British and French co.sts on the 27th, with heavy gates and rains." The cyclone proved to be one of very slow movement and did not arrive as pregicted, and from observations of its progresa subsequently made a special message was sout referring to it as follows:—"A cyclonic storm is crossing the Atlantic on a course parallel to and about ten degrees north of a line drawn from the Bermudas through the Azores to the Bay of Biscay. The woods are very violent, but the progress of the storm is It is attended by lightning and heavy rains." As stated in the HERALD of February 22 last this was lutended as a special warning for vessels about to leave port for the westward, But Mr. Scott, in his analysis, treats the two messages as referring to two distinct storms, and calls the last one a "total failure," although it was not a prediction in any sense, but simply a supplementary message. Again, he talls into an error of dates, and confounds in his list with that of another warning. Although he admits that the warning was an "entire success," it was not so for the message he erroneously quotes with it. In presence of this curious comparison it is excism without devoting more space to the subject than can be spared for the purpose in these columns. It is, however, essential that evidence be produced bearing n the more striking instances of difference between the statement of Mr. Scott as Secretary of the Meteoro ogical Council and director of the Weather Bureau of England in the daily buileting issued to the press, "private inquiry" into the merits of the "American storm warnings."

been attended with "cutire success" during 1877 are those dated February 15, March 10, April 14, October 23, November 8 and 14 and December 8. The only objections raised to the first prediction are that "The inessage gave no indication of the probable direction of the wind" and also that "the path of the storm from northwest to southeast did had it crossed the Atlantic." With regard to these objections the first needs no answer, as it is likely Mr Scott by this time sees its unimportance. The second betrays his want of familiarity with the movement of plained by his admission of a difficulty he bas experienced in tracing storm paths westward. Of the prewas not notified in the telegram, and it was nearly diary one to it, though the force of the wind in it was great." A reference to the official bulletins and the British islands. Mr. Scott has evidently mistaken one of these changes for the movement of a new depression when making his "private inquiry," for no reference is made to two disturbances in any of the official bulletins and charis issued from his office on the days reterred to in his criticism. The bulletin of eight A. M. of the 14th, referring to the storm centre that moved to the Norwegian coast on the 12th and 13th, says:- 'The depression which lay near Christiansund has apparently remained almost stationary, the lowest reading being still reported from that station this morning." It is impossible to dis-cover where Mr. Scott has found the two disturbances to which he refers. It is also difficult to understand with him how the greater disturbance can be subsidiary to the lesser one, even if they existed in For the prediction of April 14, with which he (by a confusion of dates) connects the suffiment of another warning message, he permits himself to contradict his own statements, made in an adjoining column, with regard to the directions of the gales that

Remarking on the prediction dated October 23 Mr. Scott again evidently tal's tuto error regarding the proximity of the storm to the British coasts. He says :-On the night of the 26th a depression skirted our west and northwest coasts, causing some gates." The ficial bulletips and charis make the storm area, of which there were two centres of disturbance, cover

the British tslands.

The loregoing are what must be termed the innocuracies in Mr. Scott's comments on the predictions o whose fundiments he applies the words, "entire auccess." Those that are marked "partial successare commented on with still greater differences between mis official and personal matements. The case of the prediction dated February 21, 1877, will be

of the prediction dated rebruary 21, 1877, will be sufficient for illustration:

(!khald prediction Fec. 21.)—"Expect uniavorable weather, with gale, riday or actorday (23d or 24th), for British, reach and Spanish coasts."

(Weather synepsis Sectis,—"at the date of receipt of the telegram pressure was highest in the west, with fresh to strong northerly winds over Angland. On the night of the 25d a depression crossed the north of centiand, occoming desper as it progressed, and the westerly winds increased to a gale at a lew stations in the north and west on Saterday night, but there was no rain to matter."

(Relating to warning—Sectis)—"Partial success for northern stations, b: total fature for south with France and Spani, d; general result, c."

(Relating to warning—Sectis)—"Partial subsidiary disturbance crossed England from the NW, and produced NW, and W gains belie and on the northern French coasts. The weather could not be described as "uniavorable" (whatever that may imply) statis the Sanday, when the rain belonged to the subsidiary disturbance."

(official couletin, six P. M., 22d, London Times, Peb. 23.)—"During the morning a rather deep depression has passed across the northeast of Sectiana and now the over the North weathers that the northeast of Sectiana and now the over the North weathers that the northeast of Sectiana and now the over the North weathers that the section is most piaces but olow a fresh paic at stornoway, The say is clear at Ararossan, and nearing so at Shelids, but elsew erge it is overeast, with rain, at several stations, and half and show at tornoway and Yarmonth. The set is rough in the Minch and in St. George's Channel. Our wess, north and east coasts have been warned today."

the chart accompaning this bulletin shows "a gaie" on Scottish coust, and dull, rainy and squally weather over the British islands. (Official bulletin, eight A. M., Feb 23, "Times" Register of Evonts") - "Showers of show and rain left at almost all the Sritish stations yesterday."

The chart accompanying this bulletin shows stronger portherly winds over Ireland and Western England and the Bay of Biscay, strong northeast and north west winds in France and Northern Spain, with snow and rain respectively.

and rain respectively.

(Official bulletin, six P. M., Feb. 23, London Times of 24th.)—"The present disturbance is apparently not very deep, but as the weather is so unsettled the warning signals which were noisted jesterday morning still remain in locks in she northwest and east." The chart shows general cloudiness, local rains and logs and strong winds.

logs and strong winds.

(Official bulletin, eight A. M., Feb. 24, "Times" Register of Events ")—"The centre of an extensive but not very deep, depression now lies between the Shetland Lalance and Norw., The say is very cloudy except off our northeast coasts, and rain is failing at the southeastern stations as well as in the portheast of feeland."

in England; dult and rainy in France and the Netherlanus, and rain and snow in Denmark and the North Sea, with snow and strong winds in Norway. The indicated weather in northern Spain is cloudy.

indicated weather in northern Spain is cloudy.

(Official bulletin, vin P. M., Feb. 25. London Prince, 20th.) — "Since Friday evening two depressions have passed in an east-southeasterly direction across the north of Scotiand and the Acrth oce and travelled away over Scandinavia. The first of these which passed during the night of Friday and morning of Saturday was of comparatively slight importance, but that of the past night was desper, causing a fail of more than four-tenth- of an inch in Scotiand and reducing pressure to 25.6 inches in the west of Norway. It consequence gradients became very used on our coasts and the whole rose to a hard or fresh tale at most of our western, northern and northeastern itsiliaring last sight or the morning. Our west, north and increment coasts were warned our Saturday and our out and southeast coasts were warned our Saturday and our out.

The cuart shows "ugly," "squally," "showery," "loggy" and "duil" weather, with stormy winds for southern portions of the British islands, but gives no

(Official bulletin, eight A. M., Feb. 27. "Times" Register of Rents.")—"The weather since Saturday has ocen in a most unsettled state. It time wind) has olean wery strongly over nearly the whole of these Islands during the past forty-eight hours, sate still times a moderate gale in the Chausei and a a rd gaie is the Netherlands. The style clear over Scotland, cloudy ensewhere, with showers of anov over England."
The chart shows the

The chart shows the above conditions, with "dull and cloudy weather in Northern France, rain and

topecial correspondence Trace, Feb. 24)—"Pishguard, South Wales, Feb. 22,—We have again experienced a strong raic here, and the wind having shifted to the north-ceast made the position of the ships at amone in the bary periods. At hall-part one o'clock this morning signals of distress were exhibited from three vessels. Intervises a leart's sea rolling in at the time."

(1) Mally statement, reb. 22, 1878, based on official builletim, &c.)— The prediction was completely in filled. The depression arrived on the evening of the 23 off appliance, and moved southeastward with strong gases and rains to the corrum Joean (North Sea. In south Wales a severe gate raged, cauring ioss of shipping and other dash age. The storm extended from Norway to Spain, with very heavy gaies during the 25th and 25th."

From the foregoing extracts it is pretty evident that "uninvorable weather" prevailed before Smuday.

and that there was a good deal of rain "to matter" with gales at several stations. It will also be seen that the prediction was not a "total lailure" for the South and France and Spain, and that it was interally fulfilled as to date and conditions of weather. Other instances of where absolute infillments are treated as ures," occurr throughout the tabular statements of ever, a single case of "total failure" according to the Scott tables will be sufficient to show waether the

prediction referred to tailed or not.

(Rimain prediction and warning, Feb. 25.) - "Probability bas we ther with gale, firstish and French coasts after things," (Arca L.)

(Weather synopial - Scott.) - "On Thursday night, March 1 a slight copression passed from S. W. to N. S. outbilled our east in and northwest in coasts. If produces a basic except it W. we seeming - Scott.) - "(out tature, L.)"

(technaras - Scott.) - "The disturbance may possibly have been that, referred to in the tell gram; but no gale at all o carried."

been that retered to in the ter gram; but no gate at a carried, "discal bulletin eight A. M., March I. Times' Register Events. 1—The sky soveress in the weat; clear or nears so in most other places. The sea is rough, except in the outh. Warnings were issued to free and is t evening "fiscal bulletin, six P. M. March I. Times, March 2. "The fall of the barometer which had commo cod in toutinwest of Ireland last evening has continued scall and extende to all parts of the United Kington. It wind has been to blow a moderate gale at Vacentia; the vening, with a threatening appearance. Saints Sainting literal Gastle and berdiena while shortoway reports a tormy appearance of the sky, the frish coasts with warned last night and the warning is been extended to renorthwestern and northern coasts and sectioned the evening."

indications are given for France.

(Official bulletin, eight A. M., March 2-Times' Register of Events). "The decrease of pressure which had commenced at on western stations yeak-riday norman his extended to all parts of those islands and the west of France, tain has been gen rat over those mands and continues this mershing in the south. "Show is faming an orward." in Northeastern Scotland, and "duli" woather "mist" and "rain" in France.

"Times, weather article, March 3:) — "After three days of severe frost the wind changed to the southwest on Thursday evening, and a rapid thaw set in, adoed by a heavy rain of rain, which continued up to sesterially normal." (Pegald commerces Times and the second commerces the second commerces that the second commerces the second commerces that the second commerces the second commerces that the second contract that is the second contract that is the second contract that is the second contract that the second contract that the second contract that the second contract that the second contract the second contract that the second contract that the second contract that the second contract that the second contract the second contract the second contract that the second contract the second contract that the second contract the second contract the second contract the second contract that the second contract the second contract the second contract that the second contract the

Where the customary abbreviation of the cable mes in any way rendering the meaning of the sentence doubtful, Mr. Scott does not appear to have recog bized the abbreviation, but has based his inquiry, &c on a sentence constructed of the words cabled, without rather vaguely to what the sender of the message must have intended to convey, and on this supposi tion builds a criticism of the prediction and a cable message states that a storm or depression will arrive, say on the British coast about the 14th, it certainly means that the disturbance may reach there on the day belore or the day after the 14th. In several cases Mr. Scott sets down as failure predictions embodying the qualifying word "about, because the events predicted did not occur on th exact date given. As a storm is stated to arrive on a coast when its marginal forces are first experienced the other hand, they have impered on the passage for several days. The object of the HERALD Weather the prediction of the arrival o storms on the coast of Europe. After the disturbances arrive there the local observations are supposed to determine their character. Lastly it must be remembered that there are about five hours difference of time between New York and London; that very many of the London morning papers are not published on Sanday; that the hours of publication are fixed, while those for storm move ments vary. Consequently, a warning sent on Friday at midnight would be too late for Saturday's Times or other London morning journal, would not be published on Sunday and would appear on Monday morning, pos sibly when the event it predicted was occurring. Fortunately the London Bureau of the HERALD forwards the predictions at once to the provincial press and some of the London evening papers publish them, so that the service to the public is maintained, but not without some difficulty. Some of the HERALD WARDINGS are commented on by Mr. Scott as being too late. In the matter of transmission from the HERALD Weather Bureau in New York the messages were always from two to eight days shead of the storm arrivals in Eng

land or France. It would be easy to fil these columns with proofs of the unsoundness of the views advanced by those inclined to criticise the HERALD Weather Service unfavorably. The general render is indisposed to investi gate subjects like this from the last that the issues do not interest him immediately and the trouble would be considerable. It is thus that migstatements often travel laster than their contradictions, and error over a wider area than truth. Every great and useld un dertaking when commenced must necessarily disturb something that is old, set and opstructive. There is more dust created by the tearing down of an ancient and ruised chimney than in building a new house.

THE MAGENTA EXPLOSION.

The adjourned inquiry into the explosion on board the Magenta ferryboat at Sing Sing was resumed posteruay before the United States Steamboat Inpectors, Jayne and Mathews.
Mr. John W. Blake, United States Assistant Inspec

tor of Boilers, said that he inspected the Magenta on June 5, 1877, at Newark, N. J.; he learned that she had new linings in her steam chimney; no looked the boile over thoroughly before putting on the pressure, and tound her, to ail appearance, in perfect order; he had examined the steamer's chimney since the accident; the rapid corrosion is owing to some peculiarity of the water that he could not account for; had never in his experience known such rapid oxidation as that; in cases where boilers are fetted he cut out a piece for the purpose of sounding at the chimney and such places as are liable to give out; he did not do so in this instance because knowing the boat; nor boilers being comparatively new, and having new linings, he did not that it necessary.

Joseph Belknap, consulting engineer, said that he had been engaged in the construction of steam engines and vassels since 1835; he had examined the steam chimney of the Magenta since the explosion; found the outside casing of the steam chimney very much corroded. With regard to the injurious effect of felting on the steam surnees of boilers where sail or a mixture of sail and iresh water is used he was of the opinion that the active corrolen of this chimney was caused by the action of the felt.

The inquiry was adjourned until this morning at eleven o'clock. the rapid corrosion is owing to some peculiarity of

READY FOR SEA.

It is expected that the United States sloop-of-war Wyoming will be ready to sail from this port to-morrow for Havre, Franca The Wyoming, it will be reand Norway. The say is very cloudy except of our northeast coasts, and rain is failing at the noutheastern stations
as well as in the northeast of freiand."

The chart shows squally and dull weather in Ireland and Scotland; dull or cloudy, with rains and fog.

membered, was loaded with exhibits for the Paris Exposition, and sailed from the Brookly in Navy Yard
torce weeks ago. When she was 500 miles from New
York she sprung aleax and had to put back for repairs. The required repairs have been made.

METHODIST CONFERENCES.

CONDITION OF THE DIFFERENT CHURCHES FINANCIALLY AND SPIRITUALLY-PROCEED-INGS AT THE SE STONE.

The New York Conference of the Methodist Epis-copal Church reassembled yesterday morning in St. Luk's Church and opened the second day's proceedings with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Miley. Bishop Andrews presided, the roll was called and the minutes of the previous day's session read and ad pted. There was a larger attendance than on the

Rev. C. Gorse, of Elizaville, Columbia county, entered a protest against the action taken in the Penghkeepsie district on the 18th of February, when Miss Lent was licensed as a preacher. Her examination, he said, had been astisfactory, but he thought that allowing women to preach would be against the rules of the Church. He noped that the question of female preachers would be settled at this session. Laid over

treasurer, read the financial report. It showed that the Conference had \$1,600 or real estate; securities on hand, \$31,740; total assets, \$33,340. Division of funds for the year.—To the churches of Prattsville, funds for the year.—To the churches of Prattsville, \$1,000; for superannuated fund, \$22,904; for centenary fund, \$6,535; for real estate, \$1,600. The rest of the fund was composed of small estates. The list of creditors of the Morrisgues Church was also read. Roy. Dr. D. W. C. Van Goesbeck, pastor of the Morrisgues Church, made an urgent appeal to the Conference to establish the church as a missionary church and take up the morrisgues upon it. This was the only way he saw of getting the church out of its present troubles. Referred to the trustees, with power.

present troubles. Referred to the trustees, with power.
The present trustees of the New York Conference were then fe-elected.
Rev. J. P. Hermance, presiding elder of the Newbork district, reported on the affairs under his charge and said that the church at Highland was no longer able to

carry its debt.

The "passing of characters" next took piace, the presting elder of each district answering as to the characters of each of the patters in its district. Only one onarge was brought up—that against stocker, C. C. Hammer, a lacon of Saugerties, who, he said, had acted as pastor of a refiractory congregation and because and the consumerated. His case was referred to a committee of

the following important report was then read and referred to the appropriate committee:—
At a meeting of the pastors and official members of the Methods Episcopal churches, hold Fobrusry 22, 1877. Bishop J. T. Peck presiding, a committee constituting of Revs. F. Brown and C. E. Harris, and Mr John B. Corneil, were appointed to consider the questions.

John B. Corneil, were appointed to consider the question—
"How can the connectional principle be so vitalized as to secure effectual aid for the weaker from the stronger churches?"

Tois committee reported in favor of—First, memorializing the nox General Cruleronce to old out the division line between the New York and New York East conferences in this city, as they shall deem best. The report was all-pted, and subsequently Rev. W. W. Charks moved the appointment of a committee to draft a memorial on the subject of a conference boundary line in this city, as provided for by the first proposition of the report of the committee in topic No. 3 (connectional unity), which motion was adopted into the indiving committee appointed—Rev. W. W. Charks, Rev. M. L. Scudder, Rev. Charles Fistoher and Messel, George B. Hamilton, and X. P. Cuttle.

THE AFFERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon was devoted to deferrating the anniversary of the Musisters' Mutual And Society. The society met in St. Luke's at three o'clock, Fresident J. P. Hermance in the chair. The tre-surer's report snowed the total receipts, including case on hand, to be \$1,213 66. Outley for the year, principally loans on bond and mortgage, \$6,160, leaving a case maintee of \$1,653 05. The total assets of the society were \$11,333 65.

A new constitution was read and manimously aponted.

. A new constitution was read and unanimously

A new constitution was read and unanimously adopted.

Dr. A. M. Oabon next spoke on the finances of the society. He thought \$17.0.00 was a very small amount for the society to have award in lity years for the relief of the relatives of doceased members.

The annual decition of the society was then held, with the following reads:—President, Alexander Forguson; first v.cs. president, J. N. Sonaller; second vice president, W. C. Smith; third vice president, W. C. Smith; third vice president, L. C. Washburn; secretary, R. Wheatley; treasurer, W. E. Brower. All the managers were re-election.

At eight o'clock services were test in the Free Tabernacis Church, Eighth avenue and Initiv-fourth sirrest. Rev. Dr. J. M. King, pastor of the Washington Square Methodiat Episcopal Church, preached the was being done to the missions and the duty of all to further the cause to the cest of their abinty.

At the opening of the New York East Conference yesterday a telegram was received from Danbury, superannuated preacher, who has served the Church for forty-nine years in that capacity. A suitable minute was ordered on the minutes of the Confer

The presiding elders then gave a sketch of th financial and spiritual condition of the churches in their districts. Mr. Henson catechised Elier Peck in regard to heresy preachers in his district. Some o them had been reported as unsound on the doctrine of future punishment. Dr. Pock could not answer, and the Bishop suggested that it Brother Henson of any other member of the Conference knew of such unsoundness they should preter charges and have the

Elier Graves reported a reduction of debts on sov eral churches in his district. Notably Simpson Church, which has lifted a floating debt of \$13,000; Pacific Street Church, \$5,000; Warren street, \$2,000; De Kaib avenue, \$1,000; Sheep's Hoad Bay, \$600 or \$1,300, during Rev. Mr. Nelson's pastorate; and Hanson Pince Church. Churches have been puilt and paid for at Forty-jourth street, Brooklyn, at Freeport and Hopedale L. L Revivals of religion have progressed in several charges, notably in Washington. street, Fleet street, Hanson place and Sumpson

progressed in several charges, notably in Washington street, Fiest street, Hauson place and Simpson churches of Brooklyn, and at Freeport, Bay Shore and Sag Harbor, L. 1. At the latter place over one hundred were added.

The name of William Lawrence having been called Elder Graves announced that he had withdrawn and united with the Beptist Church and returned his parchaments. Rev. James L. Hair's same was called and an apology for his contumacy was made, coupled with a request that he be restored to his informer standing in the Conference. It will be remembered that Mr. Hall refused to go to his appointment a year ago; that he took coarge of a Presoyterian Church in Brooklyn and applied for admission to the Presoytery of that city; that being refused admission on second of the suspension for contumacy by the Methodist authorities he converted his parishiours to Congregationalism. He now sake restoration to favor with his breafren and a supernumerary relation for the ensuing year. There was considerable discussion on this cose, and a motion was made that a committee on soven be appointed to investigate and report all the facts. This increased the concision and debate, and the case was postpound. The temper of the Conference was in layor of Mr. Hall's reasonation.

REPORTS AND ANNIVERSANIES.

The report of the condition of the Book Concern was made, and Dr. Nelson, the agent, addressed the Conference, The net profits for jhe year 1877 were \$24,000. The support of the bishops, which formerly was come by the Concern, is now borne by the Conference year are nearly sufficient to pay all claims. The Bishop announced two committees called for on Wednessay to sitt candidates for admission on trial and into full connection, but at the same time declared that there is hardy and changed to take the places of young men in \$300 or \$400 appointments.

CHILDREN'S FELLNOS.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Direcors of the New York Society for the Prevention Cruelty to Children was held yesterday afternoon, Mr. I homas C. Acton in the chair. There were also present President John D. Wright, Robert L. Stuert, Frederick De Peyster, James Stokes, William L. Jon-kins, Beejamin H. Fields, Jacob W. Mack, Charles Haight, Nathan C. Ely, A. C. Kingsland, Jr., Sinclair Tousey, harmon Hendricks and others. The secre-

Tousey, harmon Hendricks and others. The secretary reported the work of the secrety for the month of March as follows:—Compliants received, 120; cases investigated, 115; cases prosecuted, 42; cases convicted, 40; children placed in homes and institutions or restored to purents and guardinas, 90.

A large number of the above were cases in which young children were rescued from vile and degrated surroundings, where they were being educated as professional beggars or thieves. The subject of employing children for any purpose in variety theatres and music halls where intoxicating drinks are sold was also before the Board, and the superintendent was instructed to report at the sext meeting the number and character of such places and the capacity is which children are engaged.

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE,

George Harrison, of No. 61 Thompson street, had a number of coins and some other money in a room, which he left an inmate of the nouse, James M. Schuyfrom the bouse the costodish of the room admitted Charles W. Lawrence, who carried away \$130 87. The two accomplices in the their were arrested a brought to the Jefferson Market Police Court, wh Schuyler's admission of guilt caused the committa-both in delauit of \$1,000 bath